

10 Southwell Gardens
London SW

9 June 1888

My dear Mr Watson

I take the liberty of enclosing to you a letter for Mr Pringle who is I suppose at present in Mexico. The letter contains a cheque and as it is probable that you may be remitting money to him I leave the letter open so that if you see fit you can have the cheque (made payable to bearer) cashed at a Boston bank - and take cognizance of the contents of my letter - I lately returned from Teneriffe having gone there in January to get rid of an obstinate cough which troubled me during the winter and at the same time to see something of the vegetation of that very interesting island.

On my return I found Mr Pringle's letter and very lately received the box containing his collections of

last year - They are as usual excellent
well selected & well prepared and
I think him quite justified in increasing
the price as he has done but I have
told him of the unreasonable charge
for carriage. -

No doubt your mind is occupied
with the question of completing the
great work of the Flora of the United
States which was the main object
of Asa Gray's life - You have
now so many good botanists in
America that if they would undertake
special families - such as Gramineae
& Cyperaceae - the work could be
completed within a moderately short
time - Hooker is working manfully
at the completion of the Flora of
British India and he is so well
that I look forward to his doing
other good work when that is

completed - I have had a very interesting
set of Chilean plants - 1300 to 1400 species
including a good many that have been
distinguished on slight grounds by R. A.
Philippi who is still active - It strikes
that in some families especially Grasses
& Cyperaceae there are more forms common
to North & South America than has been
generally supposed, & especially in regard
to the plants of the S. W. region of the
U. States, it would be desirable to compare
carefully with the species described
from Chili & Argentina -

I suppose that you often see from
Mrs Asa Gray - Pray give her the
affectionate remembrances of myself
& my wife - Every day makes the
sense of the loss of that admirable
man more acutely felt - first by
those who had the good fortune to
know him as a friend and next by every
naturalist in the civilized world

Believe me very sincerely yours

John Ball